

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alex has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Alex scraped and spray painted 28 fire hydrants in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alex Joseph Nelson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus, I'm proud to support Brain Awareness Week to highlight the importance of neuroscience research as one of the most promising and productive areas of science today. Understanding the brain is not only important for understanding speech, memory, pain, or decision-making, but could lead to treatments that have a transformational impact on millions of individuals who suffer from neurological and psychiatric disorders like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. We must continue to make robust and sustained investments in agencies like the NIH to continue the tremendous progress we've already made, both to improve public health, and to maintain our leadership in the scientific enterprise.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on March 14th & March 15th, 2016, I was unavoidably detained because I was attending to matters in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On roll call no. 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, I would have voted NO.

On roll call no. 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 123, I would have voted YES.

HONORING MS. LINDA PARKS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Parks, whom I have named Woman of the Year in Napa County, California. For more than four decades, Ms. Parks has worked to build Napa-based Lixit Animal Care Products into the major manufacturer and employer it is today.

Currently serving as President and CEO of the company, Ms. Parks joined Lixit in 1971 as a buyer, three years after the company's

founding. At the time, it employed only ten people. In 1994, Ms. Parks and other employees purchased the company using an Employee Stock Ownership Plan, allowing employee stakeholders to participate in business's future and success.

Under Ms. Parks's leadership, Lixit maintains international markets in Canada and Mexico, and employs more than 100 people in its downtown Napa, California location. Lixit employs many people with developmental disabilities, helping them participate in the workforce and gain independence through the company's Adults with Disabilities program.

Ms. Parks has earned a distinguished reputation in the California business community. In 2015, the North Bay Business Journal named her one of the Women in Business award winners of the year. A graduate of the Building a Minority Business program at the Tuck School of Business, Ms. Parks has led Lixit to become a certified women-owned company.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Linda Parks for her dedication to building a successful business and diverse workforce that enlivens the Napa County business community. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

RECOGNIZING BISHOP ALFRED A. OWENS, JR.

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bishop Alfred A. Owens, Jr., who this week is celebrating 50 years of pastoral ministry in the District of Columbia at Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church, where he has provided outstanding service to not only residents of the District, but throughout the country.

As pastor of one the largest churches in the District, for five decades, Bishop Owens has been among the nation's most prominent pastors. His reputation for serving his community, humor, and messages of hope has allowed him to grow from a membership of only seven members in 1966 to more than 7,000 today.

Bishop Owens, a native Washingtonian, has a heart for the community, establishing, among other social service programs an alcohol and drug abuse program and free mental and emotional counseling through certified professionals, and becoming one of the first church HIV/AIDS healthcare programs in the nation. In addition, he is passionate about helping our returning citizens and making them productive community members. He lives by his mantra, "It's just nice to be nice." But, he understands the responsibility he has as a pastor to ensure his ministry goes beyond the four walls of the church and serves those most in need.

Among Bishop Owen's many accomplishments are serving as the Dean of the Joint College of African American Pentecostal Bishops since 2000. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Howard University School of Divinity.

Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues know of the ministry of Bishop Owens and many congressional staff attend his church. There-

fore, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Bishop Alfred A. Owens, Jr., for 50 years of extraordinary contributions to the national capital region and the nation and to wish him many more years of service.

RECOGNIZING THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL—WASHINGTON, DC

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the World Affairs Council—Washington, DC (WAC—DC). WAC—DC is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to expanding awareness among the American public and international community of geopolitical, business, and civil society issues in our interconnected world.

Since its founding in 1980, the World Affairs Council—Washington, DC has positively impacted the professional development of hundreds of thousands of teachers, educators, and students (high school and college) in the DC metro area, across the United States, and internationally through its global education, international affairs, and global communications programs. In 2009, WAC—DC launched its own weekly one hour international affairs program, World Affairs TODAY, that is filmed in front of a live audience in the Horizon Ballroom of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center and broadcast nationally throughout the United States.

The Council provides a neutral, independent and non-partisan forum for speeches by presidents, prime ministers, cabinet officials, Members of Congress, and other prominent political leaders. Additionally, economists, diplomats, scholars, corporate leaders, authors, governors, researchers, journalists, and Nobel laureates are invited to participate. American and international speakers join Council members, VIP guests, online and television audiences, and the public for in-depth discussions on major foreign policy and education issues that have a global impact.

To prepare young people to compete in the 21st century, the Council educates students on international affairs and encourages a national dialogue on "The Importance of Global Education." The Council's teacher development workshops and seminars, youth leadership forums, Academic World Quest competitions, internships, and international study abroad programs foster a balanced view of global issues. The programs facilitate worldwide knowledge transfer, multicultural understanding, and analytical insights for American and international educators, teachers, and high school and college students.

The March 29, 2016 World Affairs HONORS: Global Education Gala is an annual event that recognizes organizations that demonstrate their commitment to best practices in global education, international affairs, and global communications. The WAC—DC will present five distinguished honorees with awards that exemplify the global education mission of the Council, which is to empower educators, students and citizens to effectively compete, communicate, travel and lead in our diverse and interconnected world.